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1. CHINESE COMMUNISTS MAY BID FOR LEBANESE RECOGNITION

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The question of Lebanese diplomatic recognition of the Peiping regime will probably be raised in conjunction with a Chinese Communist bid

for closer Sino-Lebanese trade relations. A statement to this effect was made to the press by a spokesman of the Chinese Communist trade delegation which arrived in Beirut on 3 November.

The Chinese Nationalist minister in Beirut believes that a commercial accord between Lebanon and Communist China is likely, but that there is little chance Beirut will grant Peiping diplomatic recognition. The American ambassador in Beirut comments that while a trade treaty would have little economic significance, it would be a step toward eventual recognition.

Comment

Syria.

Sino Lebanese trade has been negligible, and Chinese Communist efforts in Lebanon, as in Syria, are almost purely political. Whether Beirut grants Peiping diplomatic recognition will probably depend on the course taken by Egypt and

Peiping's program of winning Arab friendship through establishment of trade ties appears to be meeting success with the conclusion of a pact with Egypt and apparently successful negotiations with Syria. (Concurred in by ORR)

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	THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION (Information as of 1700 6 November)	
	Small-scale raids and local exchanges of fire are keeping the situation tense on the Egyptian-Israeli frontier. Several minor incidents have also been reported on the Israeli-Jordanian border.	25X1A
	Israeli spokesmen, in discussing the Israeli attack of 2 November in the El Auja area, have insisted to American officials that there was no counterattack as Cairo has claimed, and that the Egyptian position at Sabha was reoccupied only after Israeli troops had withdrawn. Impressions of American newsmen returning from the area tend to support the Israeli version. An Israeli military spokesman has told American officials that the Israelis would welcome an attempt at retaliation because they would then have an opportunity to "clobber" the Egyptian army.	25X1A
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	A number of minor incidents and exchanges of fire have been reported on the Israeli-Jordanian border. Israel has charged that Jordanian infiltrators attempted to blow up two houses on the Israeli side of the border on 5 November. Jordan has alleged that an Israeli patrol penetrated its territory on 6 November, but was driven back by Arab Legion forces.	25X1A
25X1A	Syria continues to maintain its alert on the Israeli frontier, but no activity has been reported here since a brief exchange of fire on 4 November. The Syrian chief of staff has assured the American army attaché in Damascus that he has not issued any mobilization orders.	
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	A Soviet-Israeli trade agreement was concluded in Moscow on 3 November calling for the exchange next year of citrus fruits for crude and fuel oil. The agreement provides for trade to continue at about the same level as called for in arrangements for the current year.

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